

DDP 0208 DD Comprehensive Waiver Service Definitions

Effective 7/1/13

17. Personal Emergency Response System (PERS)

PERS is an electronic device that enables individuals to secure help in an emergency. The individual may also wear a portable "help" button to allow for mobility. The system is connected to the individual's phone and programmed to signal a response center once a "help" button is activated. The response center is staffed by trained professionals.

PERS services may be appropriate for individuals who live alone, or who are alone for parts of the day, and have no regular caregiver for periods of time.

Because of the limitations of the PERS service, a cell phone may be a more flexible, cost effective solution in ensuring health and safety for some individuals. Cell phones are not for convenience or general purpose use.

Guidelines for the use of cell phones include:

1. The individual requires access to assistance or supports and is frequently beyond the range of coverage of a PERS system.
2. Cell phone plans will be basic plans and will not include features unrelated to health and safety issues, such as web access or music services.
3. Individuals may elect to add a usage control feature to their basic plan to eliminate the potential for fee overage.
4. Individuals who do not elect to add a usage control feature and who exceed the fees associated with their plan may require the implementation of a usage control feature to prevent future overages. In all cases of an overage the case manager will be notified. If an individual goes over their usage limit, they are responsible for those charges and the team will evaluate the needs of the person and look at the most cost effective options.
5. Individuals may elect to add an insurance feature to prevent health and safety concerns should the phone need to be replaced.
6. These cell phone guidelines will be reviewed with the individual prior to or at the annual planning meeting.

Installation, maintenance and monthly fees associated with PERS services and cell phone services may be reimbursed with waiver funds as outlined in the plan of care.

Specify applicable (if any) limits on the amount, frequency, or duration of this service:

The waiver will not cover activities which are otherwise available under section 110 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the IDEA (20 U.S.C. 1401 et seq.), or EPSDT.